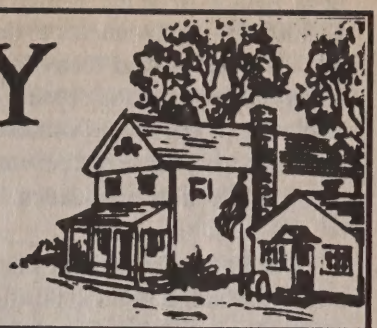
MONTEREY NEWS



MAY 1994

THE TOWN

On Tuesday, May 3, there will be a public informational meeting at the Monterey firehouse to review the warrant for the Special Town Meeting and the Annual Town Meeting, which will be held at the firehouse on Saturday, May 7, 1994, and begin at 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., respectively.

This year's warrant reflects increases all around. The total projected budget for Fiscal Year 1995 could jump as much as $215,138 over last year's budget, if all Special Articles pass and Finance Committee recommendations are disregarded. Special Articles exceed last year's by $38,772, and even with the Finance Committee's attempts at moderation, the total increase could be as much as $160,200. The state mandate that raised the school budget from last year's figure of $509,392 to this year's cost of $639,344 (up $129,952) is responsible for much of the increase. However, Special Articles in the warrant have also increased significantly, with many boards, committees, and departments requesting thousands of dollars more than last year.

The budget request for Town Offices (line item 196 on the warrant) is up $1,000. This is to cover fuel, electricity, cleaning, etc. Selectmen Chair Georgiana O'Connell pointed out that there is more electrical equipment in the Town Hall now, and that the Selectmen want to be sure they budget enough to cover costs. Also concerning the Town Of-

P. MURKETT

Hyde's Falls in April

fices, Article 10 on the warrant requests $20,000 for improvements to the building. O'Connell said there are several important projects and repairs, such as insulating, updating the windows (both measures would save on fuel costs), and fixing a hole in the foundation.

The Police Department wants to increase its budget by $5,000 (line item 210). Chief of Police Gareth Backhaus said he would like to increase patrols in response to a rise in the number of robberies this year. In addition, he pointed out that a larger pool of officers to draw from would allow Monterey to have full time police coverage, since no one police officer is allowed to work more than twenty hours per week for insurance reasons.

The Fire Protection budget request has increased by $3,000 this year (line item 220). Fire Chief Raymond Tryon explained that insurance regulations mandate that the Fire Company update all breathing apparatus used by the firemen. The Fire Company also makes a consistent effort to comply with many other regulations.

The warrant shows the Highway Department requesting an additional $15,000 in Fiscal Year 1995. At this writing Highway Superintendent Don Amstead could not be reached for comment, but Finance Committee Chair Nick Wool explained the increase. The Selectmen asked that the Highway Maintenance budget proposal reflect the cost of buying gravel from an outside source, as opposed to using the Town's gravel. Gravel is a natural resource that appreciates in value each year, and the Selectmen considered saving the Town's gravel. According to Wool, when they realized how purchasing gravel would impact the budget, the idea was abandoned. Hence the Finance Committee's recommendation to hold the increase to $1,500.

An increase of $2,500 is sought for the Town Disposal Area (line item 433). Solid Waste Committee Chair Wayne Burkhart said the increase is due to the plastics recycling program and a general rise in costs foreseen by the committee.

The Parks Commission budget request is up $1,990 from Fiscal Year 1994 (line item 630). Parks Commission member Tom Rosenthal attributed the increase to electricity costs at the new skating rink, the "skate guard" hired to monitor the rink, regular maintenance of the baseball field (which was skipped last year to save money), and additional lifeguards at the Town Beach over the busy summer weekends.

The Playground Committee has requested $19,800 to complete a new town playground project (Article 7). The playground would include a raised mulch surface and a group of wood, rope, and steel playing structures. The proposed new playground would offer greater diversity of play equipment and increased safety.

The Board of Selectmen is proposing an audit for the Town at a cost of $9,000 (Article 11). Chair Georgiana O'Connell explained that this is very important when applying for state or federal grants of any kind. Both the state and federal governments need to see how and where the Town spends its monies.

There is a request for $12,000 for a South County Dispatch Center to field E-911 emergency calls, and provide the Town with emergency communications (Article 20). When asked about this budget request, E-911 Coordinator Maynard Forbes said that this amount would be Monterey's share of the South County Center, but that to his knowledge there *is* no South County Dispatch Center as of yet, and he believes the article will be passed over. There is also a proposal to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into an agreement to join a regional communications center for emergency communications (Article 19). Last year Monterey citizens voted to affiliate with the Pittsfield-based emergency communications center, so there will be questions and discussion on this subject. Also associated with the E-911 project is an article proposing to add mandatory house numbering to the Monterey Zoning Bylaws (Article 18).

Other warrant highlights include a proposal by Town Clerk Barbara Swann to form a Capital Planning Committee for four years, and to review its usefulness at the 1998 Town Meeting (Article 22). The purpose of the Capital Planning Committee would be to create a Capital Improvement Program to consider all monetary requests from all Town boards and officers. According to Swann this would enable all boards to understand and keep current on the expenditures of other boards and committees, as well as generate discussion and feedback regarding expenditures. The Capital Planning Committee would consist of a representative from the Cemetery Committee, Library Trustees, Parks Commission, Town Clerk, Board of Selectmen, Monterey Historical Society, and the Monterey Fire Company.

— Maggie Leonard

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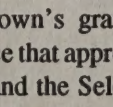

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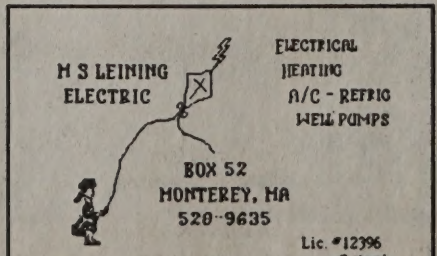

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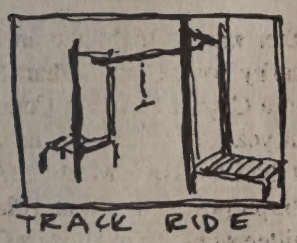
LGA WINS GRANT

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management has awarded the Lake Garfield Association a matching grant to conduct a septic system survey of the lake. This study will include seepage quantity measurements, seepage quality samplings as well as a quality assurance/quality control program and the preparation of a final report which will evaluate data with respect to potential contamination of the lake by septic leachate. The Lake Association and the Commonwealth will each pay half of the $5900 cost of the study.

For a detailed description of the study, see the February issue of the *Monterey News*.

— Muriel Lazzarini



REDUCING ELECTRIC HEAT USAGE

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET), a non-profit environmental organization based in Pittsfield, and Massachusetts Electric Company together offer owners of electric heating systems an opportunity to reduce costs by improving efficiency. CET technicians will come to your home and evaluate use of electricity for lighting, hot water, and space heating. They will install energy efficient light bulbs and water conservation devices as needed, perform a "blower door test," and seal air leaks to make your home more weathertight and comfortable. Mass Electric pays for these measures, as well as for additional attic and/or basement insulation as recommended. Second home owners here for the summer who would like to take advantage of this opportunity should contact CET any time. Call Larry or Joan at 413-445-4556 or 1-800-238-1221 (Massachusetts phones only).

PLAYGROUND Q & A

Regular readers of the *Monterey News* know about plans for the playground renovation at Greene Park. With the Annual Town Meeting only days away, it may be useful to recap basic information for interested voters. In brief, the Playground Committee proposes a design which includes two multifaceted climbing and sliding structures, a bank of swings, track ride, ladder-style jungle gym and sandbox, all grouped on a resilient safety surface approximately 50' x 100'. The Parks Commission seeks an allocation of $19,800 to cover materials and equipment; a crew of volunteers will complete the installation.

Q. Who will be using this playground?

A. About 140 children aged twelve and younger reside in Monterey. Our design includes a variety of play features for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, big kids and "children of all ages." It can accommodate about thirty-five children at once. We expect many years of use by local children and parents as well as visiting families, neighbors, and friends.

Q. When will the playground be built, and how long will it take to complete?

A. If funds are approved at the Annual Town Meeting on May 7, specs will be put out to bid by the end of May, materials and equipment ordered by early summer. Construction will take about three consecutive days: one day for site preparation, one day for assembly of the play structures in the manner of a barn raising (most components will arrive pre-cut and pre-finished), and one day to install retaining timbers and resilient safety surfacing.

Q. Can the Town of Monterey afford to build this playground, and is this the appropriate time?

A. The Playground Committee has spent nearly a year on research and planning in order to present the best possible playground proposal. Despite current budget restraints, the Selectmen and the Finance Committee have given the proposal careful consideration and endorsed the project.

Q. What can we do to help get this playground built?

A. Glad you asked! First, please come to the Annual Town Meeting on May 7 and vote in support of the Parks Commission request for funding. Then sign up to work a day or two on our volunteer building crew—no carpentry experience necessary. There will be all kinds of jobs to do, and a good time doing them.

For more information, please call me at 528-0006.

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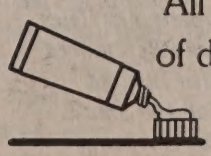

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ENHANCED 911 IN PLACE

Maynard Forbes, who is our E911 coordinator, reports that residents of Monterey are now able to use the enhanced 911 system. The biggest step in preparing for this was assigning a number to all addresses in town. Town officials are in the process of contacting everyone to let them know their street address. Each individual will be responsible for putting up numbers in a visible location. Every phone is matched by computer to an address, so that when you dial 911, the dispatcher will know exactly where the call originated. If circumstances are such that you cannot communicate the nature of the emergency—a medical problem or a life-threatening situation, for example—the dispatcher will still know where to send help. If at all possible, you should stay on the line and answer the dispatcher's questions, so he can determine what kind of help is needed. Wait for the dispatcher's okay to hang up. Even though it is called E911, you should dial only the numbers 911.

The pay phones around town are all hooked up, so an emergency at the beach on Lake Garfield, at Benedict Pond, in the center of town, or near any other pay phone can easily be reported. 911 at the dial tone will put you through to the dispatcher. You do not have to deposit any coins. You can all from a cellular phone, although the call won't show up as an address on the computer. The dispatcher will ask your location.

In order for this to work, the system must be used only for emergencies. Steak roast tickets and burning permits are not emergencies. The old seven-digit phone number will stay in use for non-emergency calls. If you have a question as to whether or not you have an emergency, the dispatchers are trained to determine the appropriate response. If you witness a crime, or your car is stolen, call 911. If you suspect there is an intruder in your home, call 911. If you smell gas, leave the premises and call 911 from a nearby phone.

There will be a period of adjustment for this new system, but the hardest part of linking all the addresses in town to phones has been done. Remember: To save a life, stop a crime, or report a fire, dial 911.

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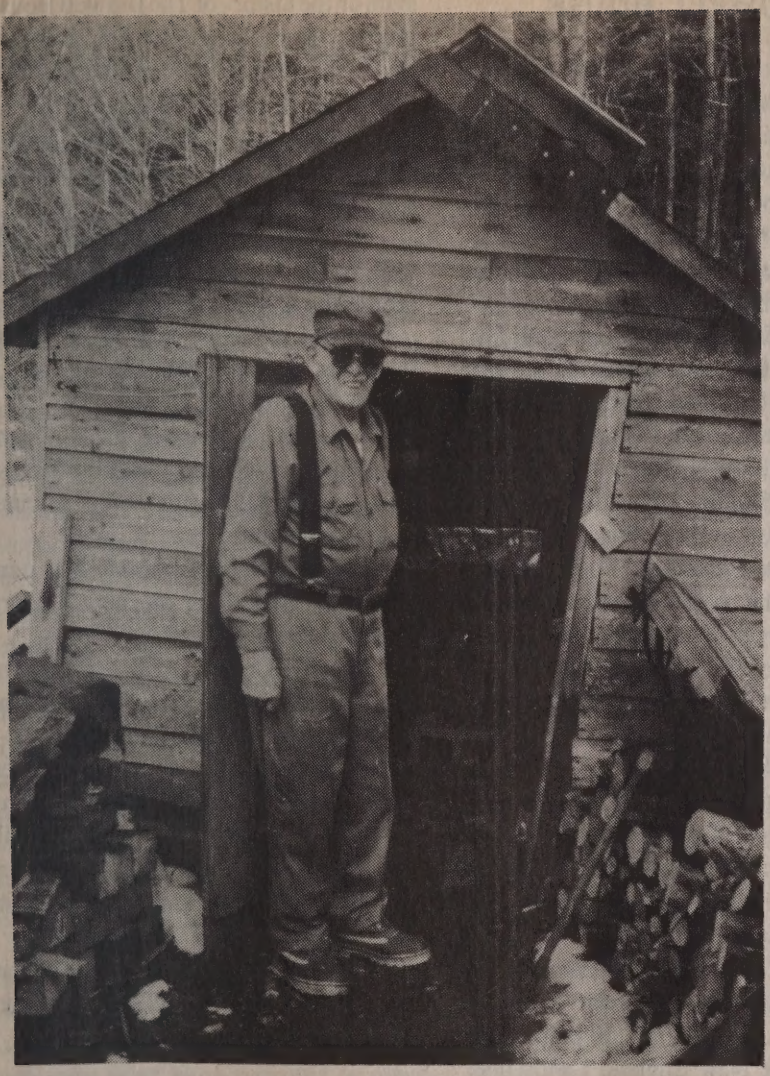

LENA PEDERSEN

Claude Burke (known around town as Tim) has been making maple syrup since 1920, when he farmed for the Eatons at Brookmead (now owned by Eric and Alice Roper, and Mark Paul). Tim is now ninety-two years old, and still works up his own firewood on a buzz saw run by an International Harvester one-lung engine. This year Tim collected enough sap in pails and tubing to make several gallons of syrup, which he and Grace give to their son Russell's family, the five grandchildren and four great grandchildren—all but what they keep for themselves, to enjoy on ice cream.

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MONTEREY GRANGE

The Monterey Grange No. 291 met on April 6 for a program on Easter and educational aid, also the monthly birthday cake. There will be a pie sale to benefit Southern Berkshire Transportation for the Elderly on May 7, 10 a.m. at the K-Mart in Great Barrington.

Agriculture and Conservation Chair Eleanor Kimberley was in charge of the program at the Grange meeting on April 20. She presented William Markham from Glendale, who gave an informative and interesting talk on maple sugaring. There was also a bulb, plant, and seed exchange.

The Grange display at the Monterey Post Office was up during the week of April 25. Monterey Grange has been invited to a Chowder Night at Plainfield Grange on April 15, and several members will attend a membership and community service meeting on April 16 at the Stockbridge Grange Hall. On April 27 the Grange will host Berkshire South Pomona, and Worthy Lecturer Mary Wallace will attend a Grange Fair regional meeting on April 23 in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Plans are under way for the June 15 meeting, when many awards will be presented, including the Outstanding Citizen Award. More details will be announced later. Applications are being taken for new members.

—Fraternally,
Mary Wallace, Lecturer

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THE BIDWELL HOUSE

May is busy with docent training, spring cleaning of the grounds and gardens, and an extensive cleaning of the museum's rooms. Also, the Girl Scouts who have been coming to the museum for classes and tours all winter will install another section of our eighteenth century herb garden this month.

We open for the season on Saturday, May 28, and on that day the museum will sponsor a hands-on workshop called "From Flax to Fiber," led by volunteer Sharon Steinberg. Many of you may remember Sharon, who once owned a weaving shop where Joyous Spring Pottery is currently located. The workshop will teach the basics of preparing wool, spinning, dying with herbs, and weaving. Time of the workshop is 1–4 p.m., and the cost is $5 for non-members, $3 for museum members. For reservations, call 528-6888.

On Saturday, June 4, Monterey's Jane Kessler will lead a hike in search of wildflowers on The Bidwell House property. The event is free, rain date Sunday, June 5, same time.

Here is a calendar of events planned for the remainder of the year:

Friday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m. "The Myth of the New England Landscape: The Bidwell House Acreage," a symposium on the history of The Bidwell House property from the Native American period to the present. Free of charge, at the Monterey Church of Christ.

Saturday, July 9, 1–4 p.m. Faux Finishing workshop with Andy Matlow and Laurel Tewes.

Saturday, July 9, 2-4 p.m. The Bidwell House Outdoor Folk Concert featuring The Amidon Family of Vermont.

Saturday, August 20, 1–4 p.m. "Delft Porcelain of the Eighteenth Century," lecture by David J. LeBeau.

Saturday, September 10, 2–4 p.m. Lisa Simpson will lead a walking discussion of colonial herbs for food, medicine, and personal use.

Saturday, September 24, 2–4 p.m. Inaugural hike along the new History Trail, led by Lisa Simpson.

Sunday, October 9, 1–4 p.m. Annual hike along the historic Royal Hemlock Road, led by Bob Rausch.

Remember, the museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., May 28 through October 10. We will also be open on the following Monday holidays: Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Columbus Day.

We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the house for a tour, or at one of these educational events.

— Lisa Simpson

Roger Tryon

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CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

Family Fun Day will be held on May 1 at the Eden Hill Recreatrion Center in Stockbridge from 12 noon – 4 p.m. This is a fund raiser for Family Education and Support Services, which includes parent-child play groups, parent to parent volunteers, video and book lending libraries, and the car seat rental program. Many activities are planned for people of all ages. Goo-sie and Bowie, two clowns, will be there along with Martina Laska, David Grover, and the Robbins-Zust Marionettes. Activities include create-a-cookie, face painting, kite flying, pocket lady, board games, obstacle course, science and magic events, balloons, and hayrides. The pool will be open for swimming. Bring a picnic or buy some hot dogs, fried dough, and snacks there. There are hiking trails, and a scavenger hunt is planned. All this for $8 per family, if tickets are purchased ahead of time at playgroups or CHP. Tickets that day will cost $10 per family. Hope to see everyone there!

There will be a parent-infant social hour on May 10, 1–3 p.m. in the Simon's Rock College Gym, where you can meet other parents of infants. It's a chance to talk over what bugs you, and to make suggestions for summer activities. Siblings welcomed, as playgroup is in place.

Spring weather is here, and we would like to remind everyone of safety tips. Finally we can open windows, but be sure to use window guards to keep infants and toddlers from falling. It is so tempting to leave children unattended in a car when you run into a store for milk or some other necessity. Please don't do this—cars can slip out of gear and roll, and children left alone, even for a short time, can be kidnapped. When visiting playgrounds, be sure to inspect the area for broken bottles and other sharp things. Be sure to install safe latching gates near pools. Always use car seats and safety belts.

We welcome volunteers Lelia Bruun, Susan Crofut, Mercy Cronze, and Glenda Hamling into our Parent to Parent volunteer program. If you would like to volunteer, call Claudette at 528-9311.

Several parents want to form a baby sitting cooperative. If you are interested, call Claudette. We plan an informational meeting for June 15, 10 a.m. at CHP.

— Claudette Callahan

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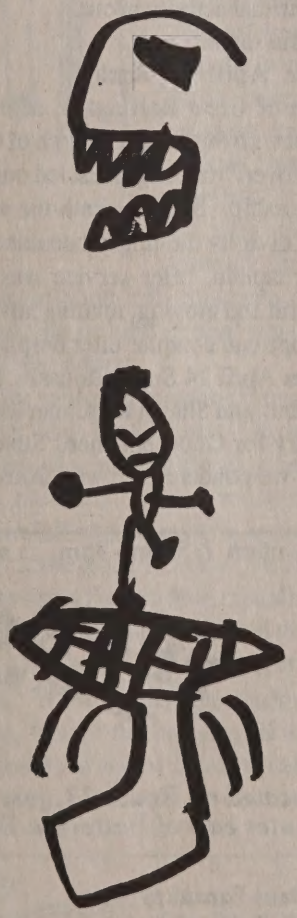

A kid jumping on a trampoline about to jump into a dragon's mouth.

MONTEREY NATURE WALKS

Bonner McAllester is offering a series of nature walks again this summer. This year they will be on Friday mornings in August (August 1–22) and are open to the first ten people who sign up. You must be over six years old to go on these nature walks, but this year for the first time there is no upper age limit. Thanks to generous support from the Monterey Cultural Committee, there will be only a nominal fee. Please call 528-9385 for more information, and watch the *Monterey News* for further notices. The walks will be 9–10:30 a.m., in Monterey, and not particularly strenuous.

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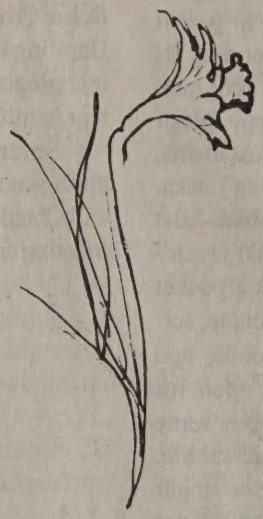
CHURCH NEWS

On April 10 Cliff Aerie, our pastor for the past six years, led his last Sunday service in our Monterey United Church of Christ, and we had a beautiful, touching farewell brunch for the Aerie family after the services.

Now we are about the business of seeking a new pastor and reaching out to the Monterey community to welcome new faces and old friends whom we haven't seen for a while. We are planning to broaden our outreach activities in hopes that the church in the center of town can truly become a center of social and spiritual activity in our beautiful town.

On April 17 Kathy Duhon of Great Barrington, a divinity student with the United Church of Christ in Andover, Massachusetts, led our Sunday worship. She is a Catholic who is taking divinity training to become a hospital chaplain. Her service was truly beautiful and moving, relating how faith and hope can conquer utter despair.

On April 24 Susan Roussin, Marty Greenhut, and Shawn Kirschner led a lay ministry for Good Shepherd Sunday at which we pondered the wondrous mystery of God, the spirit, and the divine ministry in the material world. The highlight of the day was Susan and Shawn singing together "How Can I Keep from Singing." Mary Ward read the Twenty-Third Psalm, and George Norian read from the Gospel of John. We also heard two poems by Eleanor Kimberley of Otis.



On May 1 Roy and Caroline Hansen will conduct the services for our monthly Communion Sunday, and the next three Sundays after that will be led by Chris Hinkle, Cora Davis, and Roy and Caroline Hansen, respectively.

We look forward to the summer months, when we expect to have a regular pastor in place for continuity and development of our Church's mission. However, we cherish these wonderful Sundays of transition so full of spiritual meaning and exchange of new ideas. Come and join us this Sunday! Everybody leaves the Church spiritually charged and smiling warmly.

"By their love you will know that they are my disciples..."

—Marty Greenhut

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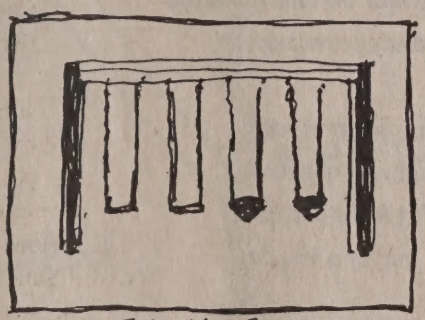
FOR THE BIRDS

It was a quiet place to visit. We'd pile into the car on a weekend morning and begin the long journey—or what seemed like a long journey at the time (I was five or six)—through the busy streets of Hartford, winding this way and that along our own quick and easy route to the other side. We even knew the timing of the lights, and if we made it all the way without coming to a complete stop, it was a great event, one of the simple joys of childhood.

On the other side of Hartford, the countryside became more rural and the roads narrower. Somewhere along the way the woods took over, and it seemed as if we were traveling into another world, a world where humans had less influence. This is how I remember arriving in Monterey, the home of my grandparents.


SWINGS

Theirs was a simple house in the woods that both my father and grandfather had built using fresh pine boards milled from trees on the property, boards fresh enough to squirt pine sap in your eye when you hammered nails into the wood. No other houses could be seen from theirs, and the sound of wind in the tall pines filtered out the sounds of civilization. They called their home Forest Edge, for they lived on the edge of the state forest, and much of their life was intertwined with the world of the forest.

The arrival of our family brought a burst of activity to their secluded little place, I'm sure. But once we'd settled in, things quickly returned to normal. As I recall, there was a TV, but we never watched it; we utilized our own resources for creating pleasure. It was a time for being outdoors, or for listening to the latest story of how my grandfather had befriended anew some animal of the forest, or looking for small hidden caves, or touring the garden, or walking the boundary with my grandfather, looking for signs of animal life.

Time moved more slowly; there was no rush, no pressure. The only limits to our running and exploring and adventures were those of safety. Little events took on great significance. One ritual I enjoyed was measuring my growth by my ability to jingle the painted glass chimes which my grandmother hung in the doorway. I grew from being lifted up to touch the chimes, to jumping, to standing on tiptoe, to standing steady as I reached up and played their magical music on my own.

What struck me most about my grandparents was the manner in which they lived with the animals. We would hear reports of a fox that journeyed past at twilight, a rabbit that would come to eat the "live-forever" growing in the yard, a raccoon (long before the rabies epidemic) that would stop on the front step for a nightly snack of peanut butter on a cracker. It was as if the animals spread the word that these good folk could not only be trusted, but offered special treats to all who came asking.

My strongest memory is my grandparents' love for the birds. On the coldest days of winter, when they needed it most, the birds could count on finding feeders full of seed at my grandparents' place. If the feeders ran low, birds would tap tap tap at the window, signalling that they needed tending. I learned that birds have their own personalities and preferences. We'd discuss the return of the robins, lament the bullying of the jays, and ponder whether the cardinal would find a mate. The birds were significant, and they trusted my grandparents.

My grandmother could sit outside in the sun, and a dozen birds would flock around her, landing on her shoulder or arm, checking to see whether she had brought them food, or just resting before they flew off across the yard. She taught us to stand still with our arms outstretched, palms upward with bird feed in them and the tips of our fingers curled just enough to create a perch. One by one, the birds would venture closer until they felt it was safe to land. I would hold my breath as tiny chickadees studied me from the tips of my fingers. I felt the quick nervousness of their energy, and the swift peck as they bobbed for seed. The thrill of their touch and the realization that I'd made a connection with a creature of the wild sent chills down my young spine. These experiences were eternal.

As an adult I share my grandparents' love for the birds. They were quiet people who taught me by their example to appreciate the simple things in life, like birds and birdseed. With them it was easy to feel accepted, and connected with the world around me—the birds, the woods, Monterey, the planet. When I think back I can still feel that sense of belonging, of being at home.

— Melinda Olds

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CORA'S SNOWBALL

For Christmas tree cutting we three did go
In just a few inches of soft wet snow,
And while two of us cut and began to haul
Cora was rolling a big snowball.

The more she rolled the bigger it grew
Till rolling required not one but two,
And each new layer was stuck with leaves
As we pushed and puffed with hearty heaves.

Finally three of us couldn't move
That mass no matter how we strove
And there it rested right in the path,
Halfway back to our Christmas hearth.

For three long months that's where it sat;
(The snows that followed made it a hat.)
The ones after that left only a lump.
Then this winter's egregious fall
Buried the snowball, hump and all.

At last in April it appeared again
In the snow meltdown: Cora's morrain.
Now all the remnant one perceives
Is a small and nondescript pile of leaves.

— David P. McAllester

EARLY SPRING RAIN

I was lulled to sleep at bedtime
By the gently falling rain
As its rhythmic "pitter patter"
Fell against my windowpane.

All night I dreamed of flowers
And of many birds that sing,
Of frisky lambs that jump about
For in my dreams 'twas spring.

When I awoke this morning
And I lay there in my bed
I could hear the little raindrops
Tap-dancing overhead.

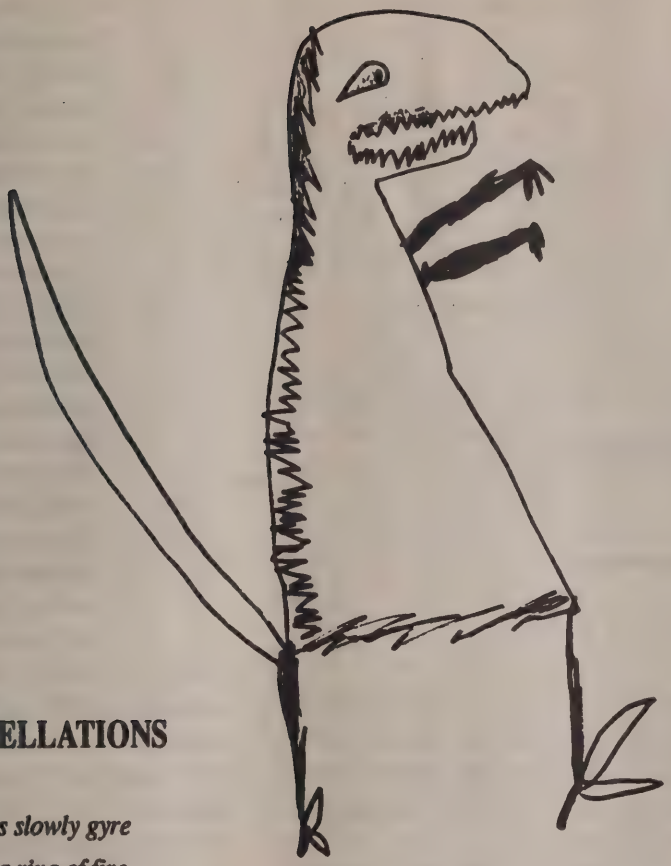
Peering out my window
I saw the rain at play...
Skipping in ice-puddles
At the start of a new day.

— Eleanor Kimberley

FLIES

Flies are horrid things!
They come in here,
They die there.
Where is there?
There is
On the floor
On the carpet
On the counter
On the table
On the chair
On the sofa
On the window
On the screen
On the window sill
On the wall
On the painting
On the stairs
On the bed
On the bedside table
On the lamp
On the desk
On the computer
On the clothes...
There is everywhere!

— Gabriel Schulze



CONSTELLATIONS

The constellations slowly gyre
And ring us with a ring of fire

The planets soaring to their place
In sweeps of time's unfolding grace.

Pause for a moment filled with awe
The heavens move without a flaw.

Here in the beauty of the night
The moon will send the sun's bright light

And generations lift their eyes
And stand anew here to surmise'

How star and planet hold their span
High in the sky and deep in man
'

And reaching thus to measure far
May find the wonder that we are.

— A. O. Howell

WHAT SHALL I DO WITH MY GRIEF?

What shall I do with my grief?
It's such a useless thing,
Not a song that I can sing
Nor a gift that I can bring,
Nor even interesting—
But it's been with me so long,
Tall, wild and strong,
It's like my own child,
Tall, strong and wild.
Can I give up my child?

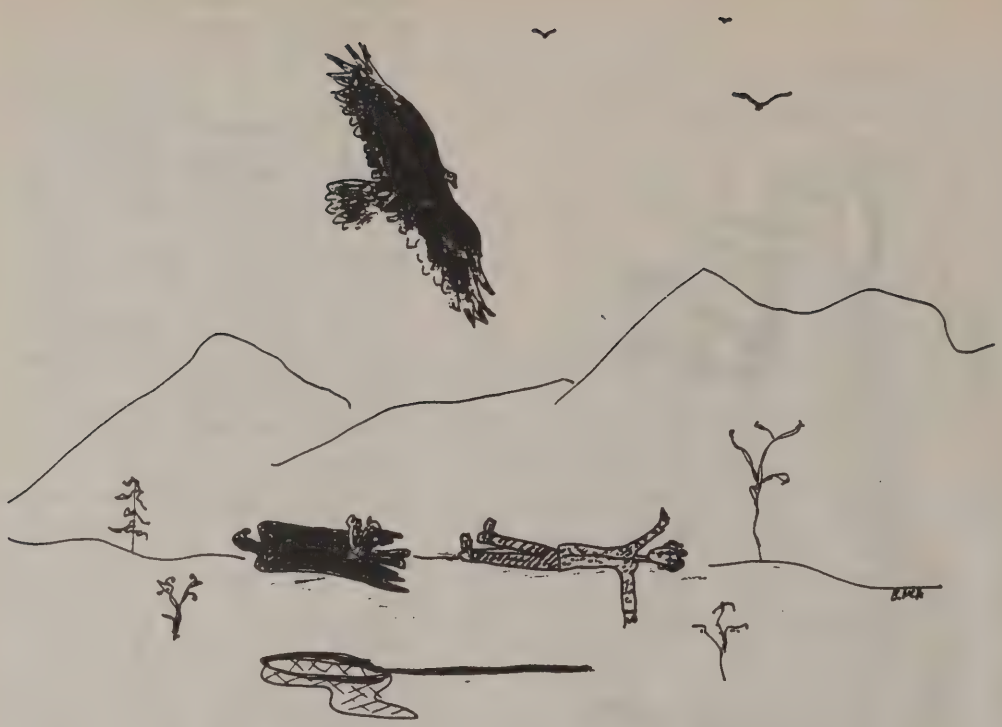
No.
And yet
If the heart will
It can be still
And let
Go.

— Patricia Howard

FEET IN THE MUD

Laughing, damp with lake water, children
climb the hill in front of my house.
Their arms are full of pond lilies, treasure
hunted on ships of innocence. Petals'
paleness, full of subtle colors
like the droplets on their skin,
cannot duplicate their smiles.
Proudly, here in my kitchen, they press
all their bounty into my hands.
"We picked them for you," they chorus, and watch
while I search for perfect vases. Dirty
footprints decorate my kitchen,
door to sink to door. These kids
grow muddy feet, like flowers.

— MaryKate Jordan



BUZZARDS IN A SLOW SPRING

The highways in April are sandy, the parking lots like a dust storm in the wind. Melting snowbanks turn grubby as accumulated road sand is concentrated by snow-melt; we are in that lag time between winter and spring, between white and green, when we have to exercise ourselves to notice that spring is here. Except for a few startling stands of crocuses on some sunny banks, spring has not yet busted out all over.

Still, the signs are there if we look, and one place to look is up. In late March the buzzards returned to Berkshire county. They spent the winter farther south and now they are back, some migrating through, and some here to breed.

Many people have never seen a buzzard up close. From a distance, in the air, the big birds float on thermals and updrafts, soaring slowly in circles. They do not draw our attention with screaming, the way hawks do. Buzzards are silent except for a hissing they can make if they are frightened and a minor croak occasionally heard. They sail into our awareness with a silent freshness, sometimes appearing as a tiny speck way up high where just a minute before there was nothing. This is magic. When you see this tiny speck in late March or early April, you know that no matter how bleak the landscape, how late the green-up, spring is here.

From way up where you can barely see her, the buzzard can spot a meal. Her meals do not dash about, making movement she can notice. They lie still on the highway or in the field or pond, carcasses ready for their next incarnation. Once she spots them, the buzzard drops steeply, still circling. This change in her flight is noticed by other buzzards for miles around and they move swiftly to join her. A buzzard can go from hanging motionless to sixty miles per hour when she wants to.

She is called a turkey vulture, turkey buzzard, buzzard, or carrion crow. Most bird books list her with the birds of prey but she rarely preys on living things. Her body, from head to tail, is thirty-two inches long, and her wing-span six feet. She is a big bird but only weighs four to five pounds. In flight terminology, she is said to have a low wing loading, which means there is much wing area per body weight. She also has a low aspect ratio, which means length to width of wing, and this produces wing-tip turbulence and drag. To offset this a little, she spreads her primary feathers, the ones you see at the tips of her wings, so that from a distance her wings have a fringed look. In this way, each feather acts like a wing with a high aspect ratio and this lowers her stalling speed. She maintains her thrust (forward motion) by gliding downward, but she can stay aloft by sinking at a rate which is slower than that of the hot air rising in the thermal she is riding. All these ratios and weights combine to give her a minimum sink rate of two feet per second. The only other vulture we see around here is the black vulture, whose minimum sink rate is two and a half feet per second. This might not sound significant, but the difference enables the turkey vulture, our buzzard, to live and soar in much more northern climes than can the black vulture, which is only occasionally seen here.

The turkey buzzard's head is small and red, with no feathers. It is like a turkey's in that it has some bumps and bristles, and the color intensifies during breeding season. Her beak is small, only slightly longer than an inch, and her claws only two and quarter inches. She is not built to fight or attack, to kill. She is made to soar and to watch constantly for a meal which is very far away and which may be already blending, literally, with the earth.

Turkey buzzards eat rotten meat. It doesn't bother them a bit, obviously, and we need to get over our own prissiness if we want to get close to them. I mean close intellectually, since we aren't likely to get the chance physically. They cannot easily deal with fresh meat since they don't have the heavy bone and muscle for that kind of exercise. Instead they gather up the meat pudding (don't be silly, now!—to a vulture it is lovely) of the world. In summer they carry it home to their babies, which are fed on regurgitant. In fact, a turkey buzzard

may use this same stuff to save itself if anyone bothers it. If you try to catch one, with ropes or nets, it may douse you with a soup you find quite horrible. Then it may keel over and play 'possum. (You may have keeled over yourself by this time. What a sight: you and a big black bird passed out together and very smelly.)

Turkey buzzards get chilly sometimes and will sit in a "spread-wing posture" catching the sun, or even on top of a chimney warming up in the smoke. You may feel that turkey buzzards are not a part of your daily life, but you never can tell. I leave you with this quote from T. Gilbert Pearson: "One day a lady of my acquaintance, while sitting alone in her room, was much startled when a beef-bone fell down the chimney and rolled out on the hearth. Going outside she discovered a Turkey Buzzard peering down the chimney in quest of his prize."

— Bonner J. McAllester

WILDLIFE SURVEY

Mammals

Coyotes were yipping in the Duryea's field about 9:30 on the night of April 11. Let that be a paradigm for spring, echoed in the new birds arriving, the early wild flowers, and the accelerating recession of those high snowbanks!

On the gloomy side, the first rabid coyote has been documented in Massachusetts, north of Lowell. Even though raccoons have become scarce, we have to look out for the disease in other species. Readers are reminded that Dale Duryea's dispatch number is 442-0152. Unit No. 890. Be cautious with any animals acting strangely, and call Dale with any questions.

At mid morning on the Monday after Easter, Debbie Mielke saw a bobcat in her front yard. She got a good long look as it stopped and sat for a while after running across the yard. It appeared to be in good health.

Art Hastedt reports springtime behavior of deer in his meadow. Six of them were revelling in the new clover and "playing, pushing each other, and hopping around." Six or seven deer are seen frequently in the Duryea field and there was an unusual sighting of a dozen on the Tyringham Road in early April. Dale has seen muskrats on the ice on Lake Garfield, and David McAllester watched a pair for half an hour at Royal Pond as they swam around each other and, coming out of the water, took turns grooming one another. The groomer would pause for a few seconds now and then, and rest its head on the other's back.

The young male beavers are several weeks early this year in scouting out streams for starting new settlements. Dale reprts three or four calls where new dams have blocked culverts or caused other problems. Wildlife officials assess these problems, and may recommend that the beavers be moved somewhere else.

Alice Howell reports one black squirrel at the corner of Hupi and Tyringham Roads.

Birds

The list of new arrivals (returnees) grows every day. The first vultures were reported by Joe Baker on March 22, and several others have been seen since then. Phoebes are calling all over the place, and looking for spots to nest. Barbara Tryon reports a bluebird at Lowland Farm. She has noticed that the males come first and establish territory. The Scheffey bluebirds reported last month also give us hope for a good Monterey population this year. It's interesting that as of April 4 no bluebirds had arrived at Bluebird Meadow in Pleasant Valley Sanctuary (Lenox). Great blue herons have been seen singly and in small groups; there is at least one heronry ("a community of herons") in town where nests can be seen. There are still flocks of geese coming and going, and many pairs have been checking out nesting possibilities. Other recent returnees: chipping sparrows, tree swallows, cowbirds, flickers, song sparrows, red-tailed hawk, and juncoes singing their spring song. Alice Howell has seen two (only) starlings. In the evening on April 26 Peter Murkett heard his first thrush of the season while driving slowly through the woods along New Marlborough Road.

Art Hastedt has heard partridges drumming at the back of his field, the opening drumroll for the chorus of song we can expect next month. Another percussion overture has been performed nearly every day by a pileated woodpecker on an unusually resonant dead

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tree at the east end of Hupi Road. As for the robins, they are nearly everywhere, often in large numbers, starting with the big flock reported by Eleanor Kimberley on Blue Hill Road March 13.

Fish

Bill Bohn asks: "Where are the bluegills in Lake Garfield, in recent years?" He hasn't seen them, and this winter he made a point of asking the ice fishermen who come by his place on Bidwell Road. There have been white and yellow perch, rock bass, and pickerel, but no bluegills. He also wants to know if anybody has been seeing wrens. You can let him know through this department, or call him directly.

Insects

Three bees, an occasional moth, a butterfly in a sheltered place at Benedict Pond, April 11. But with phoebes here, there must be plenty of other insects to make it worth their while.

Plants

Coltsfoot, on roadsides and bare wet slopes—like smaller, pale dandelions, but with no leaves yet; skunk cabbage in swampy places at Pleasant Valley; trillium up and just *so* close to bloom on Harmon Road; willows, poplars, and red maples blooming. The panicled dogwood has rosy twigs.

Special from Loul McIntosh

Birds' alimentary processes are so rapid we don't think of constipation as an avian problem. But on March 19 (Saint Joseph's Day, the wedding day of birds in Europe) a white breasted nuthatch at Gould Farm was having this struggle. It showed no interest in the kernel feeder, but pressed down on one foot and then the other several times, "really hard, squaring its whole body into a somewhat elongated shape, tail wide spread." Finally it happened, and the bird flew off to the suet.

— David P. McAllester

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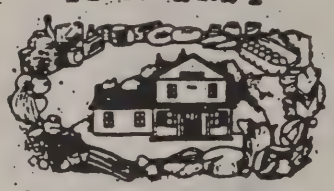
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MONTEREY PROFILE

Ray Tryon

Ray Tryon, scion of a long-established Monterey family, retired a few years ago as he passed on his construction business to his son Leigh. He is the very picture of a relaxed and contented man with much achievement behind him and many pleasures to come. "I am busier today than I ever was," he says quietly, "but the difference is that I can do whatever I want *when* I want to."

Four or five generations ago, in the mid 1800s, the Tryons first settled in what became the Tryon Hotel next to the Church up the Tyringham Road. Ray was born where his father now lives (in the house near the school), and Ray lives where his father was born (in the house across from the store). Leigh lives on the old nursing home property, making his house farthest away from the town center in this branch of the family.

Ray spent much of his boyhood in his father's garage (now a home across from the post office) working on his own projects. "I had my first truck before I got my driver's license at fifteen. I just went on from there adding to my equipment and the kinds of things I could do." He went to Monterey Central School (where the kindergarten is now) and then to Searles High School in Great Barrington.

Ray and June Champigny (who lived both in Monterey and Sandisfield) were married in May of 1952, and as Ray's construction business prospered, so did the family. Leigh was born in 1954, and Kathie two years later. As the children grew up and entered careers of their own, June worked for many years at Jenifer House in Great Barrington until it closed a few years ago. Now she lends her talents to Country Curtains' retail store in Stockbridge.

In 1953 Ray was elected Constable of Monterey, and in that same year he became Chief of the Fire Department. He has held both positions ever since. The former job carries full police powers, but also has ceremonial aspects inherited from colonial times, roles played at elections and certain other town func-

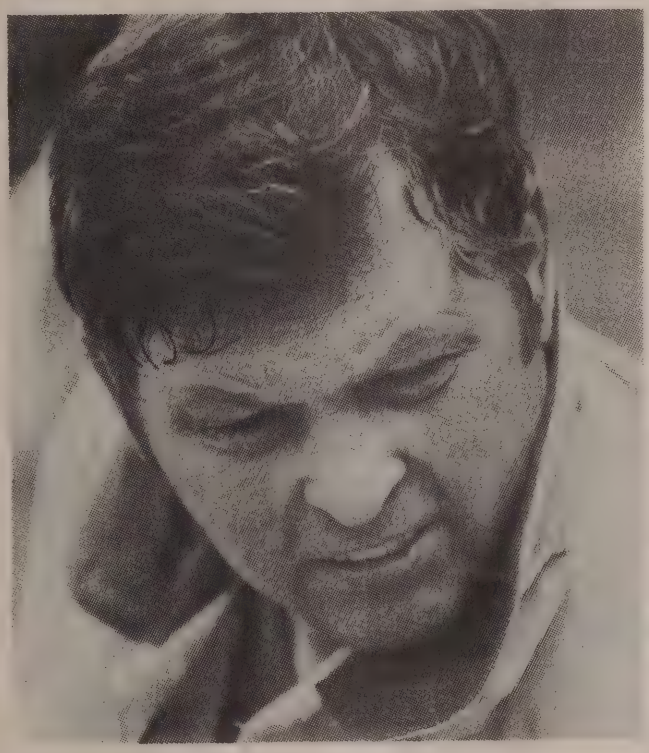
tions. Ray has seen the Fire Department grow from the old LaSalle touring car donated in the 1930s by Al Diefendorfer, a summer resident, to its present top-of-the-line equipment and well-trained, highly motivated personnel. Ray has led much of this professional growth. The three superbly appointed trucks, the big new firehouse and pavilion, the life-saving training and equipment (including a "jaws of life" used to open up a crushed car, and a helicopter connection to provide the quickest possible transportation of critical accident victims to the appropriate trauma center)—all these are the result of planning, imagination, fund-raising and hard physical labor originating right here in the Monterey Fire Company. "And none of it," says Ray, "would be possible without the support of the community."

One of Ray's great satisfactions has been seeing the firehouse and pavilion develop into venues for community functions. Some of these are: arts festivals, dances, annual and special town meetings, the Christmas party, the annual steak roast, the tag sale, and the skating rink, which is the best in the region, and the scene of toddlers first moves on skates as well as professional championship games of hockey.

Though the Fire Company is the source of much of Ray's quiet satisfaction, now that he has retired from the construction business, another major interest claims much of his time: the big horses that we've all admired in their paddock and in the Monterey Memorial Day parade. Ray had little to do with any horses until he was introduced to them by Bob Brennan of Hillsdale, New York. Bob is famous across the country for his skill with these gentle giants, and for the work-horse shows he organizes. Ray soon yearned for his own team, and found it so rewarding he ended up with three.

"It's the attachment you come to feel, and the sense of communication. I have big moments with these wonderful animals every day!"

Once he began to acquire the horses, it was inevitable that Ray would think of harnessing them to a fire engine of the horse and wagon era. Working from scratch and mostly using his imagination to design the vehicle, he built an 1890s chemical hose wagon with a seventy-five-gallon soda-acid extinguisher. (He doesn't use acid to pressurize the device, though, because of what it would do to the environment.)



DON VICTOR

The harness for a team of multiple horses is almost as complex as the rigging of a schooner. It is Ray's good luck and delight that the premier harness maker in the country, John Santos, lives and works in Great Barrington. Most of the time he makes harness for the dazzling Budweiser "hitches" that perform around the country and even in Japan. Ray persuaded John to make him a harness that can be altered to fit several combinations of his six horses, including an unusual three-span. John's wish to see the harness in action in his home town was fulfilled last year at the parade celebrating the retirement of Mort Cavanaugh, Great Barrington's beloved Fire Chief. A team of three of Ray's great black Percherons in glittering harness pulled the fire wagon with the Grover's Gang Band aboard, and also a flatbed containing a Great Barrington high school chorus singing the "Hometown Hero" song.

Retirement has given Ray time for another vocation, a sawmill of his own. He had often imagined the pleasure of producing clean, useful lumber with his own hands and equipment, so three years ago he built a small sawmill in back of Leigh's house. He has no intention of starting another business, but likes the idea of salvaging an occasional tree and putting it to creative use when it might otherwise simply be destroyed. It adds to the pleasure of the sawmill and the horses that June enjoys lending a hand with the heavy work.

The horse drawn fire engine and the old fashioned sawmill show something of Ray's antiquarian bent. He also likes reading Monterey history, and is the informal curator of the family's old documents and photographs, and the historical house in which he lives. He is interested in his own family's past, including a grandmother on the Stedman side of the family who is said to have been half Indian. "It's nice to think that some part of the family might have had connections with this country not just for a hundred years or so, but for ten thousand."

In his new, mellow life there is one improvement Ray would like to see. "People are sometimes apprehensive about coming up to talk with me. I somehow give the impression that I am a very private person, but I'm not like that inside. I've never bitten anyone yet."

— David P. McAllester

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VOXED

L.A.

I like the Little Death quality of vacations, the practical preparations for one's own absence: hold the mail and board the dog, leave a tidy personal emptiness. Then gone. We take little and travel unrecognized, landing in Los Angeles, opposite New England.

I happen to love cities, the endless stream of people and their absurd effects. (I also love where I live, clearly not a city; the only difficulty with this is the passing impulse to settle in every place that appeals.) Los Angeles lacks vertical density. Particles bound in the Angelean nucleus resist each other; they multiply, but they do not condense. There is lots of sky, the ocean, and the long, unlikely arc of palm trees holding up their tops, catching any breeze. It is always warm, more or less.

Of course it's no paradise. There is renowned smog, a grinding sort of oppression, as well as that L. A. specialty, random sudden trouble—the earth moves, a fire takes off, street violence erupts—events that gut any sense of control. The breezy face in the sun contorts. Here at home seasons come and go; we prepare for winter, welcome spring. Out there, you *can* take steps to prepare for an earthquake, but it won't shake you on the solstice—then again it just might. Good luck and bad are real.

Family and old friends greet us warmly. On Saturday we take surface roads out to Muscle Beach in Venice, where there's a major recreational installation—basketball, handball, and paddle tennis courts, swings, rings, parallel bars, jungle gyms, punching bags. Showtime. There is a paved walkway where the beach meets a row of shops that sell anything. Here performers do their many things: a man juggles flaming torches; four skinny guys do a routine of jumps, dance moves, spins, squats, and kicks on roller skates in time with rap music from a boom box; a one-man band plays Elvis Presley songs; an older man with thick fingers plays ragtime piano on a small studio upright. You get the picture.

MICHÈLE MILLER

This is roller blade heaven. I take off with my nephew Nicholas and his friend Katy. We skate north into a breeze toward the Santa Monica Pier, the sideshow on our right, and the Pacific Ocean across the beach on our left.

Soon I drift off and just keep skating up the beach by myself along miles of concrete and blacktop path. I feel like a traveller, not like someone chasing a puck in the MHL. I try skating with my hands behind my back, try a few stepovers, try going backwards if no one's coming. I get behind someone really good, and try to skate like him, or her. I don't fall. People of every age, gender, and race go by on bikes, blades, skates, recumbent bikes, skateboards. Sometimes there's eye contact. I glide on up the beach and the crowds thin, the beach widens, and I wonder where the path ends without ever finding out. Finally I turn around, and the breeze blows me back into the crazy crowds.

On the flat at the top of a short concrete ramp (maybe three feet total rise) some guys on roller blades place four full-size steel drums together in a row, upright. A shaggy street soldier skates away, turns, looks for a break in the bike path traffic, then gives a little jump and takes long strides building speed, zooms up the ramp and into the air, turning, lands backwards in a crouch on one foot, clearing the barrels. Just another guy at the beach. Now, here, it feels like Long Ago, and far away.

— Peter Murkett

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Four Characters

April 18, 1994

To the Editor:

With the forty-sixth anniversary of our arrival in Monterey, some cherished memories come to mind.

One of my first mentors in town was Margaret White, wife of the founder of the Democratic Party in Monterey.

One night Margaret called me that she wanted to talk to me. When I arrived at her home there were already two chairs in the living room facing each other. Seconds later Margaret came from the kitchen with two of her famous health drinks. As if it had been yesterday, I remember her words vividly. Said Margaret: "Fred, I want you to know that I have many Republican friends, and I found out that they too are human." And then leaning forward with a twinkle in her eye: "But of course they are very different from us Democrats."

Another much esteemed mentor was George Bynack. When finished with painting our house, he asked me how I felt about Monterey. I told him that I though it was a lovely village, and that Lucie and I were very happy to be here. But that was not what George had in mind, as his following advice attests to. Said he: "Fred, I want you to know that when you go behind your house and want to pee, before you can open your fly the whole town will know about it."

Then there is my dear old friend Shel Fenn, who at the end of a visit called me back from the door with these words from his hospital bed: "Fred, I just want you to know that you're a nut, but you're a good egg," which turned out to be the highest compliment I've ever been paid in our town.

Thus with Margaret having enlightened me that there are hidden qualities to Republicans, and, at least by implication, that we Democrats are the real thing; with George having given me the flavor of Monterey; and our poet in residence, Shel Fenn, having told me who I really am, I feel that I own much to the wisdom of these three striking characters.

— Fred Lancome

Daffodils from the Beach

April 17, 1994

To the Editor:

I'm sitting on a sandy beach—very wide. The roaring ocean is tickling my toes. The sun occasionally slipping behind a cloud, plus the ocean breeze, makes the 90° very enjoyable. It doesn't get any better than this. After a super skiing winter, looking ahead to a Monterey summer on the lake—soo-o-o, it will take a bit of concentration to gather my thoughts of Daffodil Day.

What *is* Daffodil Day? You don't *know*? The American Cancer Society offers the cut daffodils to you for a donation to assist in their work. It occurs when we all could use a bright spot to fill in between winter and spring.

My thoughts of skipping it this year were soon abandoned as folks were asking me about it and *offering* to work on it again! What a pleasure to have willing workers and enthusiastic customers. All this and benefiting a good cause to boot.

But you see I am always away on delivery day, so I must have everything in place early on. Any concern that something might go wrong is alleviated by the assurance of workers that it will be fine. Those at the General Store (Maynard, Gale, and clerks) keep the flowers in the coolers, distribute them, take in money, and take care of any problems. They have cheerfully given their time these ten years!

This is a thank you to workers, whom I shall name, and all of you who ordered, whom I shall not name! Great job—we topped last year!

Appreciation goes to: Maynard Forbes, for his annual donation of daffodils for shut-ins and elderly; Cynthia Weber, new this year, for organizing and delivering Maynard's flowers; standby workers Maggie Leonard, John Jefferson, Stephanie Grotz, Shelly Bynack, Niel Orenstein, Ruthie Champigny, Carol Edelman, and Elizabeth Pizzichemi.

Workers are responsible for phoning people in their neighborhoods, and taking orders. It creates an opportunity for a visit.

Watch for news of daffodil time next year—and if you've been overlooked, call me.

And so I'm back to the duties at hand: a three mile walk and romp in the ocean. Fondly, to all, from St. Augustine—

— Fran Amidon

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PERSONAL NOTES

Our congratulations to **David** and **Jennifer Quisenberry**, part time Bidwell Road residents, on the birth of their son **Graham O'Brien**, on March 1 in Manchester, Connecticut.

Congratulations also to **Jim** and **Ginette Morrissey**, whose son **Cameron Joseph** was born March 26 at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington.

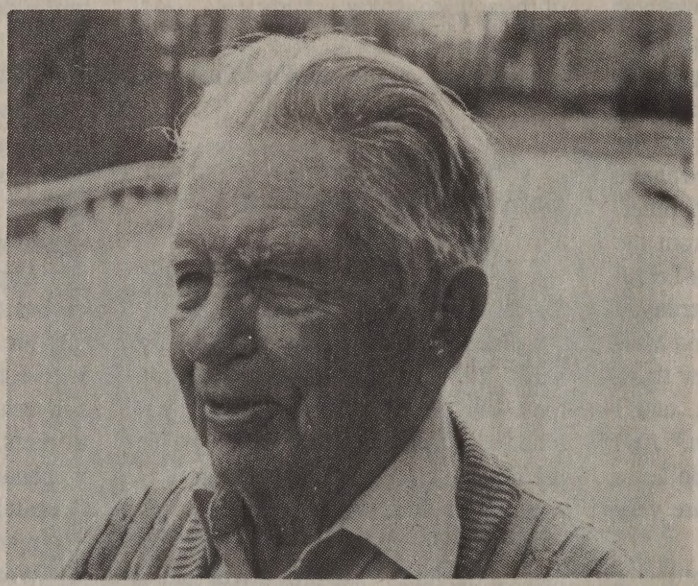
Applause for summer resident **Mark Heimann** who is completing his post-Duke University two year program at the Circle in the Square Theater School in New York City, and is currently appearing in the New York Metropolitan Opera production of *Otello*, starring Placido Domingo. Mark is the son of Herb and Carol Heimann of Lake Garfield.

Hats off to **Olivia Williams**, who was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Congratulations to **Joe Kopetchny** who took the gold medal for the second straight time in the 132 lb. Cadet Division in the USA Massachusetts Freestyle State Championship held at Springfield College earlier this month. Joe is a freshman at mount Everett in Sheffield. The medal upped his spring record to 8-0.

Congratulations also to Monterey wrestler **Jason Tanner** who won the gold in the 182.5 lb. Cadet Class in a Connecticut-sponsored USA wrestling tournament, and also reached the finals of a USA Massachusetts-sanctioned event for the fourth consecutive time, and won his third gold at 182.5 Cadet. Wow! Jason is a sophomore at Mount Everett.

Congratulations to **Paul Noah Perces** on the dedication of his 46' x 26' x 2' Holocaust Memorial, a steel, barbed wire, and stone sculpture at the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Ramapo College in Mahwah, New Jersey on April 7, annual observation of Yom Hashoah, National Day of Remembrance. You can see some of Paul's sculpture at the Berkshire Artisans' Gallery III, located in the England Brothers' lobby on North Street in Pittsfield from May 9 to July 9, open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.



KATHIE TRYON

A very special birthday greeting to A. Wallace Tryon, who was born right here in Monterey on the 30th of May in 1894.

Kudos as well to **Alyssa Gelbard**, daughter of Estelle and Paul Gelbard of Point Road, Lake Garfield. Alyssa has been accepted into the M.B.A. program of the New York University School of Business, and will begin attendance this fall. Good luck, Alyssa!

Very happy belated (oops!) birthday wishes to **Alyssa Gelbard** on April 14, and **Christopher Tryon** on April 20. And happy birthdays this month to **Cora Jay Baker** on May 2, to **Douglas Brown** on May 6, to **Eon Higgins** on May 8, to **Tarsi Dunlop** on May 9, to **Dierdre Higgins**, **Isaiah Gottlieb Schulze** and **Tess Dunlop** on May 22, and to **Alexandra Newman** on May 29.

Happy anniversary wishes to **Ernie** and **Marie Heath** on May 3, to **Bill** and **Jeanne Zad** on May 7, and to **Alf** and **Lena Pedersen** on May 22.

All are invited to the Fourth Annual Spring Choral Concert at Gould Farm on Friday, May 13 at 7 p.m. There is no charge—it's a wonderful opportunity to visit our Gould Farm neighbors and share an evening of fun and music with them. The concert will be held at the Main House.

My thanks for your contributions! Please continue to share news items, birthday greetings, etc. Call me at 528-4519, or jot items down and drop them in the mail to me, just Route 23.

— Stephanie Grotz

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Gifts from readers are the lifeblood of the *Monterey News*. We are grateful for your support throughout the year, and are especially heartened by your generous response following our annual fund appeal. Thanks most recently to

Paul & Ann Kuzmak
Alfred & Shelly Emmel
David & Susan McAllester
Ira L. Transport
James F. Grande & Wlliam E. Sequin Jr.
Joan & Mark Abramowitz ("We all look forward to the *Monterey News*, and enjoy reading it. Thank you.")
Elisabeth A. Wood
Fred & Lucie Lancome ("Best regards, great work!")
Lewis Scheffey
Rose Foreman
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Leo & Miriam Schreiber ("We love the *Monterey News*.")
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Peter & Susan LePrevost

Mustard's a neat Springer Spaniel who sometimes needs someone to watch him.

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CALENDAR

Sundays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 AA meetings, 9 a.m. at the Monterey Grange No. 291.

Tuesday, May 3 Public informational meeting for discussion of articles on the warrant for Town Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Monterey firehouse.

Saturday, May 7 Special Town Meeting, 9 a.m. in the firehouse, followed by Annual Town Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, May 13 Spring choral concert, Main House, Gould Farm, at 7 p.m. Public invited, welcome.

Saturday, May 14 Square and Contra Dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass., 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults $5, children $2 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Tuesday, May 17 Free blood pressure clinic, downstairs at Town Hall, 9–10:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 28

Square and contradance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass., 8:30–11:30 p.m. This dance is for people who have some square or contradance experience. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Admission $5. Information, 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

The Bidwell House opens for season, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Flax to Fiber Workshop, 1–4 p.m. Information, 528-6888.

Monday, May 30 Memorial Day Parade, 1 p.m. town center.

Saturday, June 4

Fire Company Tag Sale, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. in the pavilion behind the firehouse. Donations, Dan Andrus, 528-5444; space rental, Gale at the General Store.

Wildflower Identification Walk, The Bidwell House, 1-4 p.m., free. Information, 528-6888.

Friday, June 10 "The Myth of the New England Landscape: The Bidwell House Acreage," symposium at 7:30 p.m., Monterey United Church of Christ, free. Information, 528-6888.

THE OBSERVER - MARCH

Winter finally ended.

High temp (3/27)	64°
Low temp. (3/1)	-3°
Avg. high temp.	46°
Avg. low temp.	29°
Avg. temp.	38°
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	32.2°
Precip. occ.	16 days
Total precip.	23.5" snow / 1.10" rain
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	3.31"
High bar. press. (3/12)	30.57
Low bar. press. (3/16)	29.50
High humidity (3/8)	97%
Low humidity (3/1)	56%
Avg. wind speed	13 mph
High wind gust (3/22)	44 mph

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For changes of address, or information regarding subscription to the *Monterey News*, call Susan LePrevost, Circulation Manager, at 528-4595.

To receive complete information regarding advertising in the *News*, contact the Editor at 528-3454.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Sudi Baker, p. 10; Mo Banner, p. 8; Frank D'Amato, p. 4; Bonner McAllester, p. 12; Riley Murkett, pp. 7, 11; Julie Shapiro, pp. 3, 9, 13.

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